

Blood of the Covenant, Shed for You

Exodus 23:20-24:18

Introduction

Passage Overview:

- **Looking back:** We left the narrative of Exodus several weeks ago in **Ch 19**, with Israel camped at Mount Sinai and God giving Moses instructions and warnings.
- **Interlude:** In **Chs. 20-23** we covered the 10 Commandments and precepts of the law.
- **Looking ahead:** We'll leave off today with Moses on Mt. Sinai in the cloud of God's glory for 40 days and nights. Joshua is nearby, and Aaron and Hur are presiding over the nation of Israel. Most of you know what happens next, particularly with Aaron and the people, and I want you to keep that in the back of your mind as we study this passage today.
- **Today:** We will cover one of the most powerful, meaningful and memorable passages in the entire Bible. There's a lot we can and will learn from this passage, but here's the main thing we need to get today:

Trust in God's Victory, Obey God's Commands, Receive God's Blessing, Confirm God's Covenant, Behold God's Glory.

- That's a mouthful and I know some of you are thinking...that's 5 big ideas. Maybe so, but we'll get through them. We'll cover the 1st 3 together, then each of the other 2.
- Take note of who the **main character** is...**the hero of the story**. This passage is primarily about **God...His victory, His commands, His law, His blessing, His covenant, His glory**
- **It is God who delivers victory. It is God who should be obeyed. It is God who provides the blessing. It is God who makes and seals the covenant. And it is God who is holy and just and merciful and should be worshipped forever. It is God who rescues and redeems us. And it is God whom we should follow and worship, trust and obey.**
- Let's see why and how...

1. Trust in God's Victory, Obey God's Commands, Receive God's Blessing (23:20-33)

20 "Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. 21 Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. 22 "But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. 23 "When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out, 24 you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces. 25 You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you. 26 None shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days. 27 I will send my terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people against whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. 28 And I will send hornets [or 'the hornet'] before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you. 29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land. 31 And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. 32 You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. 33 They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

The "angel"

- We are fascinated with angels (and demons).
 - a. According to a recent poll, **8 out of 10 Americans believe angels exist**
 - b. They are the focus of books, TV shows, and movies.
 - c. There are a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings about angels so we need to **be careful to not get our understanding of angels from our western, 21st century culture. We need to understand the role and character of angels they way the Bible explains it.**
 - d. But unfortunately we don't have time to do that today. Today, we're only going to study this angel in Exodus 23.
 - e. But as we do, **be careful to not imagine this angel as a plump, lazy angel with pretty wings and a harp lounging on a cloud. This angel is quite different from that picture.**
 - f. **This is not a wimpy angel...this is a warrior angel!**

- **Ps. 91:11: he [God] will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**
- **5 Possible Identities of the angel**
 1. **The glory cloud that led the Israelites day and night**
 - a. But....a cloud is an inanimate object, whereas the angel described here as a living, moving, speaking being
 2. **A metaphor for the guidance and help of the Lord**
 - a. But....the text clearly says God would send angel and the angel would do certain things. That doesn't sound like a metaphor.
 3. **A human being (angel = messenger)**
 - a. **Moses** (never entered Promised Land)
 - b. **Joshua** (Hebrew name for Jesus)
 - c. Possible, because the text says God's name is in him (Joshua is the Hebrew name of Jesus), but it also implies the angel has the authority to forgive sin, so that's problematic
 4. **An actual angel...perhaps Michael the archangel**
 - a. We see him at work battling the devil in Jude 9 & Rev. 12:7.
 - b. Very Possible, but...you still have this issue of not forgiving sin.
 5. **Pre-incarnate Christ**
 - a. Would make sense to say God's name is in him and that he has the authority to forgive sins
 - b. But...why would refer to him as an angel?
- **In any case, this angel points us to Christ.**
 1. Like the angel, **Christ is our guardian and guide. (Matt. 8:20, John 14:6)**
 2. Like the angel, **Jesus speaks to us with the authority and message of God. (Luke 9:35)**
 3. Like the angel, **Jesus bears the name of God...because he is God. (Heb 1:3)**

1) Trust in God's Victory (20, 22b-23, 27-31)

- a) **What does this passage teach us about God?** About who He is and what He has done?
 - i) He is loving. He leads, protects and provides for us. We can trust in his loving provision.
 - ii) He is powerful, all-powerful. We can trust in his power.
 - iii) He is victorious. It is He who provides the victory. We can trust in his victory.
 - iv) He is trustworthy. His promises will come to pass and we can trust them. We can trust that He will defeat evil and will lead us to the Promised Land.
- b) **What is God going to do to win the victory?** Notice the "I wills" and "I sends":
 - i) **20: "Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared."**

- ii) **22b-23: then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.** “When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out,
- iii) **27-31: I will send my terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people against whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you. I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land. And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.**
- c) Get the picture? If not this idea of the **hornet or hornets** should help.
- i) Not the New Orleans, formerly Charlotte Hornets.
- ii) Could be literal or figurative.
- iii) The Canaanites would panic they way people do when they get buzzed by a bee.
- d) **ILLUSTRATION - BUZZING BEE: Do you panic when there’s a bee around? I understand if you’re allergic but what if you’re not? I bet some of you go downright crazy if there’s a bee around. You get scared and panic and run for cover. Well, that gives you a good idea of what was going to happen in Canaan.**
- e) **God was their holy bouncer.** God would go before them, and through his agents and power, He would strike fear into their enemies.
- f) **ILLUSTRATION – CALEB AND JOSHUA: Can you imagine? God, the all-powerful goes before you in the battle. How can you be concerned about losing? Why wouldn’t you trust Him and have faith in the victory? We see this later when Moses sends in the 12 spies including Caleb and Joshua. While they don’t have any doubts conquering the land, the other 10 spies didn’t share their faith.**
- g) **APPLICATION – What about us?**
- i) **Trust God to win the victory.**
- (1) As far as our eternal salvation, the victory is already won.
- (2) But until then **we should trust the Lord but not be passive observers.** We should **be on watch, pray and study and apply God’s Word.**
- (3) But the main thing we need to is **“be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (Eph 6:10)**
- (4) **As you battle temptation...as you struggle to grow in your faith, to obey the commands of God, to smash the idols in your heart...trust in the victory of God and call on Him in your distress and struggle.**
- (5) **And don’t wait ‘til you are weary and near defeat...call on Him now for the battles you know lie ahead.**

ii) **Remember it will come “little by little.”**

(1) Our sanctification will not happen overnight. Oh how I wish it would! We can be so impatient and demanding – even with our own growth as believers. But God wants us to be patient, to trust and rely on Him – for the rest of our lives. This long, slow process of sanctification is for our good and his glory. It should teach us to depend on his grace, drive us to prayer and refine our character as we allow God to mold us in his image.

2) **Obey God’s Commands (21-22a, 24-25a, 31b, 32-33)**

- a) God would provide the victory. And what were the Israelites to do? Sit back and watch? Be spectators and enjoy the blessing? Grumble when God doesn’t move fast enough or satisfy them? (We never do that, do we?)
- b) What does he expect of His people? Obedience!
- c) How? What were they to do and not do?
- i) **21-22a: Pay careful attention to him [the angel] and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. “But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say,**
- ii) **24-25a: you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces. You shall serve the LORD your God,**
- iii) **31b: and you shall drive them out before you.**
- iv) **32-33: You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”**
- d) **Two demands** were made on the Israelites:
- i) **What not to do:** Do not worship the gods of the Canaanites.
- ii) **What to do:** Destroy their idols and sacred stones, the means and reminders of worship.
- e) **APPLICATION – What about us?**
- i) **Don’t compromise!** We should do everything we can to distance ourselves from sin, destroy the idols of our hearts and give the Lord our exclusive allegiance.
- ii) **How are you doing with this?** What are the idols in your heart that compete with the Holy One for your affections, your heart, your time, your resources, your attention, your love?
- iii) **Idols aren’t always based on bad desires.** We can desire good things (like queso and chips); that doesn’t make them an idol. But when we desire a good thing too much, when our desire leads us to sin when we don’t get that good thing, when we want it too much, when we want it in the wrong way, or when it’s taken away, the good thing becomes an idol. You know it’s an idol when you sin to get it or sin when it’s taken away. When those good desires become idols, we are worshipping, and we are loving something more than God. And as God warns us

and the Israelites: those things will trap us and draw us away from God. And God doesn't simply say to avoid those idols, He says destroy them!

3) Receive God's Blessing (25b-26, 29-30)

a) How is the Lord going to do that for Israel?

- i) **25b-26: and He will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you. None shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.**
- ii) **29-30: I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land.**

b) Israel's blessings:

- i) Plenty of food and water
- ii) Good health
- iii) Large families
- iv) Grow to old age
- v) But most of all...they would have the land, the Promised Land, the inheritance prepared for them by God.

c) Word of caution:

- i) **These promises were for a specific people at a specific time for a specific purpose:**
 - (1) Blessings given by God to teach the nation of Israel spiritual truths
 - (2) And to protect, provide for and preserve them as the chosen people from which the Messiah could come.
- ii) This does not mean if you obey the Ten Commandments and rest of the Law that you won't get sick, never starve, have lots of children and live long. And it does not mean if Christians suffer they have been disobedient. That's possible because as Scripture teaches us God disciplines those He loves...but that's a sermon for another day.
- iii) Jesus suffered and He promised his followers they would not only suffer but they would be hated. As the Bible teaches us, the suffering won't end until we enter the Promised Land. And when we do, we will never hunger, or suffer, or mourn.
- iv) **Rev. 21:4: He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.**

d) **Application** – What about us?

- i) **We have a better promise.** God gave the people of Israel a specific promise, at a specific time, for a specific purpose. And it was a good promise. But with the new covenant, for those that have faith in Christ Jesus, we have a better promise and we will enjoy a better Promised Land.

- ii) Are you ready for that? Do you long for that? Do you savor the certainty that God keeps his promises and will lead you into his eternal Promised Land?
- iii) You should be! As the song goes...people get ready.

2. Confirm God's Covenant (24:1-8)

1 Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. 2 Moses alone shall come near to the Lord, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him." 3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do." 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

a) Overview

- i) For any covenant to be established it has to be confirmed by both parties.
- ii) That's what happens in Chapter 24. Chapters 20-23 lay out the terms of the covenant and Ch. 24 tells us how it was ratified.
- iii) Exodus 24 is also the story of a worship service, the first of its kind. In this one chapter we have:
 - (1) A call to worship
 - (2) The reading of God's Word
 - (3) A confession of faith and commitment to obedience
 - (4) The sharing of a sacramental meal
 - (5) All of this under the oversight of an appointer servant of God and the elders, and in the presence of a holy and glorious God
 - (6) Now that's what I call a worship service!

b) A few comments about the passage:

i) **1: Nadab and Abihu:**

- (1) Aaron's two eldest sons, would have been the next high priests in the line
- (2) They died late under God's judgment because of their unauthorized sacrifice (Lev 10:1–2; Num 3:4).

ii) **2: Moses alone:**

- (1) Was **the chosen mediator** between God and the Israelites.
- (2) **Represented the people before God.** He **went between a holy God and a sinful people.**
- (3) Was **permitted to draw near.** God was teaching his people to honor and respect his holiness.
- (4) **We can only draw close to God and be in his presence if we come on his terms, in the way He has appointed. Back then it was through Moses and the priests. Now it is only through Jesus Christ, "the mediator between God and men (1 Tim 2:5)**

iii) **3 & 7: All of the words...we will do:**

- (1) Moses told all the people the "words" and the "rules" that God had given.
- (2) The "words" likely refer to the Ten Commandments themselves, as they were "words" spoken by God.
- (3) The "rules" were the laws that provide specific instruction, which followed the Commandments.
- (4) **After hearing the "words" and "rules", the people unanimously agreed to keep them – to be obedient.**
- (5) They **did the same thing a second time**, after Moses had written them down (v. 4) and then read them aloud (v. 7). Thus **they doubly confirmed the covenant** with their vocal promise, in addition to the promise they had made in 19:8.
- (6) **Why did he read it twice, and why did they promise to obey twice?**
 - (a) **1st time** – so they could understand and accept it – they declared their intent.
 - (b) **2nd time** – so they could promise to obey and confirm it – they took their vows.
- (7) **ILLUSTRATION – WEDDING: first you declare your intent ("I will" or "I do"), then you say your vows.**
- (8) Of course they didn't last long did they? Moses steps away for a few days and they almost immediately disobey – the most important commandments.

iv) **4a: Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord:** important because in ancient times, **covenants were always written down.** Without being written, they were not finalized. This verse also **confirms Mosaic authorship** of the Book of the Covenant.

- v) **4b: Built an altar:** After writing down the words, Moses came to build an altar, for the covenant was to be sealed with blood.
- vi) **5: burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings:**
- (1) **Burnt offering:** whole animal was consumed by fire (illustration about burning fries)
 - (2) **Peace offering:** animal was not consumed by fire; meat was grilled and served to eat; but first the blood drained. **This is where the blood comes from** in verses 6 & 8
- vii) **6,8: The blood:**
- (1) The **portion sprinkled on the altar was God's**, signifying that he was one party to the covenant.
 - (2) The **portion of blood that Moses put in bowls was for sprinkling on the people, as a sign that they were recipients of the benefit the shed blood provided. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb 9:22).**
 - (3) **"This is what a bloody alter always signifies: the forgiveness of sins. Atonement has been made; God has accepted a sacrifice as payment for sin. The blood was also a propitiation: it turned aside God's wrath. The blood was sprinkled on the people...[which] showed that God had accepted their sacrifice and that they were now included in the covenant through the forgiveness of their sins."**
 - (4) This idea of the blood of the covenant would be **expanded in the New Testament**, specifically in regard to the **Lord's Supper (Matt 26:28; Mark 14:24; Lk 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25; Heb 9:20; 10:29; 12:24; 13:20; 1 Pet 1:2).**
 - (5) **Since the Fall, Blood, has been the basis of man's relationship with God – in terms of sin and forgiveness. Without the blood, there can be no access to God because there is no forgiveness of sin.**
 - (6) **How is this fleshed out in the New Testament? How does it point us to Christ and his shed blood?** We see this brought up in a lot of places (**Rom. 3 & 5; Eph. 1: & 7; Col 1; Rev. 1:5**), but **perhaps none is better than Hebrews 9**. Here we see confirmation that **Jesus ushered in a New Covenant through the shedding of his blood.**

a. **Heb 9:11-15:** *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.*

c) Application – What about us?

i) **Obey the Word of God.**

- (1) When Moses told the people the words and laws of the Lord, they responded **twice** in unity, **"All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do."** This is a strong commitment. How do you compare? Are you resolved to obey God no matter the circumstances, especially the Great Commandment?
- (2) The truth is **we all are like Israel and fail to obey.** But when this happens, **we must look to the one who did obey - PERFECTLY, the one who provides us with His righteousness.**

ii) **Blood of Christ, Shed for you.**

- (1) Growing up in a Lutheran church I heard that phrase a lot...every time we had Communion. **"Blood of Christ, shed for you"** was said to every person that took and drank from the cup. **How simple, but how powerful?**
- (2) **"Just as Moses sprinkled blood on the altar, so Christ shed his blood on the cross. The cross is where blood was sprinkled, atonement was made, and sins were forgiven. Therefore the cross is where we have to go to find salvation.**
- (3) **Do you dwell on that? Do you cherish the fact that Christ poured out his blood for you? He ushered in a New Covenant, sealed with his own blood.**
- (4) **Brothers and sisters in Christ: Do you celebrate that? Do you cherish that? Does that humble and provoke you to obedience?**
- (5) **Others: Have you been sealed by the blood of Jesus? Perhaps today is that day for you...the day you are covered by his blood and you receive forgiveness...the day you commit to follow and obey him forever. Is today that day for you?**

3. Behold God's Glory (24:9-18)

9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. 11 And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. 12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." 13 So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." 15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

a) A few comments about the passage:

i) **9: they went up:**

(1) 74 people ascended Mount Sinai to represent all Israel in the covenant meal.

(2) Can you imagine? Do you get nervous when you eat a meal with someone important? Imagine dining with God on his mountain!

ii) **10 & 11: they saw and beheld God:**

(1) **What did they actually see?**

(a) They probably saw **some sort of general shape that He allowed them to see vaguely.** Ezekiel (Ezek. 1:26–28) and Amos (Amos 7:7) had similar visions.

(b) **Quite possible they saw God from below since the description we have is of his feet and the pavement.**

(2) It's also **possible this was a vision of the pre-incarnate Christ.**

(3) But what about **Ex 33:20,** where God actually says **"no one may see me and live."**

iii) **11: but God did not raise his hand against these leaders:**

(1) **So why didn't these men die after they saw and beheld God?**

(a) **Two reasons:**

(i) **They didn't see God fully, only a vague or partial vision of Him.**

(ii) **God deliberately chose not to "raise his hand" (divine judgment through a display of supernatural power) against them. It was not God's intention to punish them.** This meeting and meal was part of his plan. They had an invitation!

(2) **Why did God show himself, even though only vaguely and partially?**

(a) **Israel would understand that he was a willing party to the covenant.**

(b) They would remember that they had agreed to keep his covenant in his actual, unmistakable, presence.

(c) “God gave them a sneak preview – a glimpse of his majesty.”

iv) **11: They ate and drank:**

(1) It just keeps getting better!

(2) If getting a glimpse of God wasn't enough they were given a further privilege – to share a meal with Him.

(3) Sharing a meal was a symbolic act of friendship. It showed that they had fellowship (community) with God.

(4) ILLUSTRATION – SO IT IS WITH US: Whether it's with your Growth Group, your church, with a few friends, your family, your neighbors, our co-workers...when you share a meal you have fellowship, you build community. You do the work of and follow the example of God. So go have a meal together – to the glory of God! Amen?!?

(5) ILLUSTRATION – WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB:

(a) “God is handing out invitations to his feast. Every time the gospel is preached, people are invited to eat and drink with God. God is [preparing] the last and longest banquet of all, what the book of Revelation calls ‘the wedding supper of the Lamb’ (Rev 19:9).” Will you be there? Do you have a seat at his table?

(b) In the meantime, God has given us a special meal to remind us we belong to Him by covenant. We call this meal the Lord's Supper and here at Imago Dei, we enjoy it every week. Every week we remember the sacrifice of Jesus and we look forward to the wedding supper of the Lamb.

v) **12: tablets of stone:**

(1) The “tablets of stone” that God himself wrote were the Ten Words or Commandments, not all the laws of the covenant.

(2) All other commandments and laws were written by Moses according to God's dictation.

vi) **15-18: Moses in God's glory cloud:**

(1) The cloud reminds us of Chs. 13 & 14, where we see the pillar cloud that appeared during the day, and the pillar of fire that appeared in the night to guide the Israelites.

(2) Had already served as a protection and guide for the Israelites in their flight from the Egyptians

(3) Represented God's glorious presence: awesome, multifaceted, partly mysterious but also protective and encompassing.

b) **Application – What about us?:**

i) Remember...this was a big worship service, and like Moses and the Israelites, we are invited to participate. This is the story of their salvation and in a sense ours too

ii) Here's how:

- (1) Like the Israelites, God calls us to worship Him and speaks to us by his spoken Word.
- (2) Like the Israelites, we are separated from God because of our sin, and therefore have to keep our distance.
- (3) But then, God in his grace provided a sacrifice of atonement through the blood of his covenant. For the Israelites it was the blood of an animal; for us it's the blood of Jesus.
- (4) Once our sins have been forgiven, we can enjoy fellowship with God. We can sit down and enjoy his banquet. Now, we do it through the Lord's Supper; later in Heaven we will enjoy the meal at his table.
- (5) "But how does this story end? It ends with our entrance into glory. This is the goal of our salvation: not just to see God and sit down with him but to participate in his glory. What happened to Moses will happen to us: God will come down and lift us up into glory."

Conclusion:

- So Exodus 23 and 24 is a big worship service and a beautiful picture of Israel's and our own salvation. It's also a picture of our future if we are in Christ Jesus.
- Is this a picture of your life? Your future?
- To get back to our 5 points...
 - **Have you Trusted in God's Victory, Committed to Obey His Commands and Confirmed His Covenant?**
 - **Do you look forward to Receiving God's Blessing and Beholding His Glory?**
- You can and you should.
- "This is so foreign to our experience that it is hard for us to even imagine. We live in a world that is so inglorious—a world that for all its beauty is tragically marred by sin. In our mundane existence we are surrounded by everything trashy and tawdry. If nothing else, we continually have to live with the ugliness of our own sin. But there is something better in our destiny. We have been saved for the glory of God, and one day everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ will be lifted up into the brightness of his glory."
- **Amen, come Lord Jesus!**